United Nations A/RES/71/64

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*m*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/64. Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/45 N of 10 December 1996, 52/38 G of 9 December 1997, 53/77 M of 4 December 1998, 54/54 H of 1 December 1999, 55/33 G of 20 November 2000, 56/24 P of 29 November 2001 and 57/81 of 22 November 2002, its decision 58/519 of 8 December 2003, as well as its resolutions 59/82 of 3 December 2004, 61/76 of 6 December 2006, 63/62 of 2 December 2008, 65/67 of 8 December 2010, 67/50 of 3 December 2012 and 69/60 of 2 December 2014, entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures",

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective post-conflict peacebuilding; such measures include collection and responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of weapons obtained through illicit trafficking or illicit manufacture as well as of stockpiled weapons and ammunition declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized and provided that such weapons have been duly marked and registered; confidence-building measures; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; demining; and conversion,

Noting with satisfaction that the international community is more than ever aware of the importance of such practical disarmament measures, especially with regard to the growing problems arising from the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, including their ammunition, which pose a threat to peace and security and reduce the prospects for economic and social development in many regions, particularly in post-conflict situations,

Stressing that further efforts are needed in order to develop and effectively implement programmes of practical disarmament in affected areas as part of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration measures so as to complement, on a case-by-case basis, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 2171 (2014) of 21 August 2014, in which the Council affirmed that a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy should

Please recycle

include practical disarmament and other measures to contribute to combating the proliferation and illicit trade of arms,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which was established by the Secretary-General to bring about a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the complex and multifaceted global problems related to small arms,

Welcoming also the report of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[1] which, inter alia, underlined the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action[2] and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument)[3] for attaining Goal 16 and target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[4] and which noted the importance of arrangements that assist in matching needs and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument,

Welcoming further the sustainable operation of the flexible, voluntary United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, pursuant to the Programme of Action and the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 69/60;[6]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects,[7] which highlighted recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design and implications for the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (the International Tracing Instrument);[3]

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of including in United Nations-mandated peacekeeping missions, as appropriate and with the consent of the host State, practical disarmament measures aimed at addressing the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, including through weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programmes and enhancing physical security and stockpile management practices, as well as relevant training programmes, with a view to promoting and implementing an integrated comprehensive and effective weapons management strategy that would contribute to a sustainable peacebuilding process;

4. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Group of Interested States for Practical Disarmament Measures, and invites the Group to continue to promote, on

---

[1] A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[3] See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex.

[4] Resolution 70/1.

[5] A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II.

[6] A/71/151.

[7] A/71/438-A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/1.

the basis of lessons learned from previous disarmament and peacebuilding projects, new practical disarmament measures to consolidate peace, especially as undertaken or designed by affected States themselves and regional and subregional organizations, as well as United Nations agencies;

5. *Encourages* the Group of Interested States to continue to function as an informal, open and transparent forum supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[2] in particular to facilitate the exchange of views on issues related to the United Nations small arms and light weapons process, as well as to continue efforts to facilitate the effective matching of assistance needs with available resources, in line with requests from affected States as indicated in their national reports, pursuant to the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action[5] and the outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action, [8] thus effectively facilitating the provision of international assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Also encourages* the Group of Interested States to contribute to the development of voluntary indicators at the national level, based on the work of the Statistical Commission, the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which could be used to measure progress made in the implementation of target 16.4, [9] and to support efforts towards the implementation of the target, including data collection for relevant indicators;[10]

7. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to financially contribute to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation;

8. *Encourages* States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty in a position to do so to financially contribute to the Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund;

9. *Welcomes* the synergies within the multi-stakeholder process, including Governments, the United Nations system, regional and subregional organizations and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations in support of practical disarmament measures and the Programme of Action;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of practical disarmament measures, taking into consideration the activities of the Group of Interested States;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

---

[8] A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/2, annex.

[9] Ibid., sect. I, para. 27.

[10] Ibid., sect. I, para. 76.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*r*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/65. Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 65/49 of 8 December 2010, 67/31 of 3 December 2012 and 69/36 of 2 December 2014,

Convinced that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones contributes to the achievement of general and complete disarmament, and emphasizing the importance of internationally recognized treaties on the establishment of such zones in different regions of the world in the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime,

Considering that the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region,[1] constitutes an important step towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensuring regional and international peace and security,

Considering also that the Treaty is an effective contribution to combating international terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists,

Reaffirming the universally recognized role of the United Nations in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Emphasizing the role of the Treaty in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination, and the importance of stepping up efforts to ensure the safe and reliable storage of radioactive waste in the Central Asian States,

Recognizing the importance of the Treaty, and emphasizing its significance in the attainment of peace and security,

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia;

2. *Also welcomes* the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia on 6 May 2014 by nuclear-weapon States and the ratification of this instrument by four of them, and calls for early completion of the ratification process;

[1] Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Please recycle

3. *Further welcomes* the submission at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of two working papers, on the Treaty and on the environmental consequences of uranium mining;

4. *Welcomes* the convening of consultative meetings of States parties to the Treaty, on 15 October 2009 in Ashgabat, 15 March 2011 in Tashkent, 12 June 2012 in Astana, 27 June 2013 in Astana, 25 July 2014 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and 27 February 2015 in Bishkek, which identified joint activities by the Central Asian States to ensure fulfilment of the obligations set out in the Treaty and to develop cooperation on disarmament issues with international bodies, as well as the adoption of an action plan of the States parties to the Treaty to strengthen nuclear security, prevent the proliferation of nuclear materials and counter nuclear terrorism in Central Asia;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*ee*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/66. Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/46 of 5 December 2007, 65/74 of 8 December 2010, 67/51 of 3 December 2012 and 69/50 of 2 December 2014,

Recognizing the essential contribution of radioactive materials and sources to social and economic development, and the benefits drawn from their use for all States,

Recognizing also the determination of the international community to combat terrorism, as evident in relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions,

Noting with satisfaction the continued international efforts to strengthen further the security of radioactive materials and sources worldwide,

Deeply concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that terrorists may acquire, traffic in or use radioactive materials or sources in radiological dispersion or emitting devices,

Deeply concerned also by the potential threat to human health and the environment that would result from the use of such devices by terrorists,

Noting with concern the ongoing occurrence of nuclear and radioactive materials that are outside of regulatory control or being trafficked,

Recalling the importance of international conventions aimed at preventing and suppressing such a risk, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted on 13 April 2005,[1] and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 26 October 1979,[2] as well as its Amendment, adopted on 8 July 2005,[3] which entered into force on 8 May 2016,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2445, No. 44004.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1456, No. 24631.

[3] See International Atomic Energy Agency, document GOV/INF/2005/10-GC(49)/INF/6, attachment.

Please recycle

Noting that actions of the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material, notably Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and 1977 (2011) of 20 April 2011, constitute contributions to the protection against terrorism using such materials,

Stressing the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting and reinforcing the safety and security of radioactive materials and sources, in particular by establishing technical guidance and supporting States in the improvement of national legal and regulatory infrastructure, and in strengthening coordination and complementarities among various nuclear or radiological security activities,

Noting the organization by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, held in Vienna from 1 to 5 July 2013, and the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Maintaining the Continuous Global Control of Sources throughout their Life Cycle, held in Abu Dhabi from 27 to 31 October 2013, as well as the upcoming International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, to be held in Vienna from 5 to 9 December 2016,

Stressing the contribution of the International Atomic Energy Agency to preventing illicit trafficking in radioactive materials and facilitating information-sharing on materials out of regulatory control through, inter alia, the Incident and Trafficking Database and its work in the field of nuclear forensics,

Noting the importance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management[4] with respect to its provisions on the safety of disused sealed sources,

Highlighting the importance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and of its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources as valuable instruments for enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources, noting that 133 States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency have made a political commitment to implement the provisions of the Code and 106 States have made a similar commitment to the supplementary Guidance, while recognizing that they are not legally binding, and highlighting the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017, and of the voluntary contributions of Member States to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Fund,

Noting that a number of States have not yet become parties to the pertinent international instruments,

Encouraging Member States to make voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency Nuclear Security Fund,

Taking note of resolutions GC(60)/RES/9 and GC(60)/RES/10, adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its sixtieth regular session, which address measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety and measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism, and of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017,

---

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2153, No. 37605.

Welcoming the fact that Member States have taken multilateral action to address this issue, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 70/10 of 17 November 2015,

Noting the various international efforts and partnerships to enhance nuclear and radiological security, encouraging further efforts to secure radioactive materials, and noting also in this respect recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency with regard to safe and secure management of radioactive sources,

Taking note of the findings of the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources of 2013, which, inter alia, call for further assessment of the merits of developing an international convention on the safety and security of radioactive sources so that Member States can make the best-informed decisions on the matter,

Noting that the Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) works with nations to strengthen capabilities to counter nuclear smuggling and prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear or radiological materials, and that INTERPOL Operation Fail Safe promotes the sharing of sensitive law-enforcement information on known nuclear smugglers,

Welcoming the ongoing individual and collective efforts of Member States to take into account in their deliberations the dangers posed by the lack or insufficiency of control over radioactive materials and sources, and recognizing the need for States to take more effective measures to strengthen those controls in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law,

Mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with its international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear safety and security, asserting that responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and noting the important contribution of international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities,

Mindful also of the urgent need to address, within the United Nations framework and through international cooperation, this rising concern for international security,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to support international efforts to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources and, if necessary, suppress such acts, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;

2. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to become party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism[1] as soon as possible, in accordance with their legal and constitutional processes;

3. *Invites* Member States, in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency, to consider the merits of an evaluation of the existing international framework applicable to radioactive sources and, if necessary, to explore possible options for its potential strengthening;

4. *Urges* Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent the acquisition and use by terrorists of radioactive materials and sources, as well as terrorist attacks on nuclear plants and facilities which would result in radioactive releases, and, if necessary, to suppress such acts, in particular

by taking effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect such facilities, materials and sources in accordance with their international obligations;

5. *Encourages* Member States to enhance their national capacities with appropriate means of detection and related architecture or systems, including through international cooperation and assistance in conformity with international law and regulations, with a view to detecting and preventing illicit trafficking in radioactive materials and sources;

6. *Invites* Member States, in particular those producing and distributing radioactive sources, to support and endorse the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources, as described in General Conference resolution GC(60)/RES/9 and to enhance the security of radioactive sources, as described in the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017;

7. *Urges* all States to work towards following the guidance contained in the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, including, as appropriate, the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, noting that the Guidance is supplementary to the Code, and encourages Member States to notify the Director General of the Agency of their intention to do so pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(60)/RES/9;

8. *Encourages* Member States to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the non-legally binding international framework for radioactive sources, especially on the safe and secure management of disused radioactive sources, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Agency, in particular with resolutions GC(60)/RES/9 and GC(60)/RES/10;

9. *Recognizes* the value of information exchange on national approaches to controlling radioactive sources, and takes note of the endorsement by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency of a proposal for a formalized process for a voluntary periodic exchange on information and lessons learned and for the evaluation of progress made by States towards implementing the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;

10. *Notes* the progress made by the States members of the International Atomic Energy Agency in working within the framework of the Code of Conduct to develop supplementary guidance in the management of disused sources, and encourages the submission, upon completion, of the draft to the Board of Governors, with a view to the adoption and implementation of such guidance as soon as possible;

11. *Encourages* Member States to participate, on a voluntary basis, in the International Atomic Energy Agency Incident and Trafficking Database programme;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by Member States, including through international cooperation under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to search for, locate, recover and secure lost or orphaned radioactive sources within their State jurisdiction or territory, encourages continued efforts in this way, and also encourages cooperation among and between Member States and through relevant international and, where appropriate, regional organizations aimed at strengthening national capacities in this regard;

13. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national laws, policies and priorities, to provide support for scientific research to develop technically and economically appropriate technologies with the capability to further improve the security of radioactive materials or sources;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Preventing the acquisition by terrorists of radioactive sources".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/67. Nuclear disarmament verification

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[1] in particular the paragraphs relevant to verification, and the roles and respective mandates of the disarmament machinery bodies established therein,

Recalling also the decisions taken and commitments made by States parties at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference[2] and the 2000[3] and 2010[4] Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons related to nuclear disarmament verification,

Reaffirming the shared commitment to further progress in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation,

Reiterating its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Recalling the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[5] are committed under article VI thereof,

Recalling also that significant steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament should promote international stability, peace and security, and be based on the principle of increased and undiminished security for all,

---

[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[3] See *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I and II)).

[4] See *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vol. I (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)), part I.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Please recycle

Recalling further that all States parties to the Treaty commit to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the implementation of their treaty obligations,

Convinced that, while verification is not an aim in itself, further development of the multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capabilities will be required to provide assurance of compliance with multilateral nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,

Convinced also that, irrespective of different positions on the means to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, identifying and developing practical and effective measures of nuclear disarmament verification and monitoring will foster confidence and facilitate efforts to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 62/21 of 5 December 2007 on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification, in which it took note of the report of the Panel of Government Experts on verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification,[6] as well as the reports of the Secretary-General of 1990 and 1995,[7] and recalling also the report of the Disarmament Commission outlining general principles elaborated upon or added to those stated in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8]

Recalling also that the International Atomic Energy Agency, in carrying out its functions, shall conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international cooperation, and in conformity with policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded worldwide disarmament and with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies,

Mindful of the role of verification in existing bilateral and multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control agreements, and the importance of making use of existing capabilities of relevant international organizations and experiences and lessons learned, as appropriate,

Mindful also that, given the challenges associated with verifying nuclear disarmament, continuous capacity-building and technical development are critical to bridging any shortcomings and establishing effective multilateral nuclear disarmament verification,

Noting initiatives and partnerships among Member States, such as the initiative of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification, to enable active collaboration between States, in conformity with their international obligations, in developing practical methods that could contribute to the verification of irreversible dismantlement of nuclear weapons,

Noting also the contribution of representatives of civil society from the non-governmental, academic and research communities,

---

[6] See A/61/1028.

[7] A/45/372 and Corr.1 and A/50/377 and Corr.1.

[8] A/51/182/Rev.1.

1. *Calls for* further efforts to reduce and eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, and reaffirms the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals;

2. *Reaffirms* that disarmament and arms limitation agreements should provide for adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned in order to create the necessary confidence and ensure that they are being observed by all parties, and notes the development of broader partnerships and cooperative verification arrangements;

3. *Calls upon* all States to work together to identify and develop practical and effective disarmament verification measures facilitating the objective of achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons through, inter alia, advancing, understanding and addressing technical challenges of nuclear disarmament verification and monitoring, including tools, solutions and methods and capacity-building;

4. *Calls for* the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures, which will build confidence and facilitate the advancement of nuclear disarmament efforts, and affirms in this context the importance of credible verification in providing assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and commitments;

5. *Encourages* the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission to substantively address nuclear disarmament verification;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the development and strengthening of practical and effective nuclear disarmament verification measures and on the importance of such measures in achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons, and to report back to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a group of governmental experts of up to 25 participants on the basis of equitable geographical distribution to consider the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament, taking into account the aforementioned report, which will meet in Geneva in 2018 and 2019 for a total of three sessions of five days each;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "Nuclear disarmament verification".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/68. National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling that effective national control of the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, including those transfers that could contribute to proliferation activities, is an important tool for achieving those objectives,

Recalling also that the States parties to the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties have undertaken to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of materials, equipment and technological information for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of those treaties,

Considering that the exchange of national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology contributes to mutual understanding and confidence among Member States,

Convinced that such an exchange would be beneficial to Member States that are in the process of developing such legislation,

Welcoming the electronic database established by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, in which all information exchanged pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/66 of 22 November 2002, 58/42 of 8 December 2003, 59/66 of 3 December 2004, 60/69 of 8 December 2005, 62/26 of 5 December 2007, 64/40 of 2 December 2009, 66/41 of 2 December 2011 and 68/44 of 5 December 2013, entitled "National legislation on transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology", can be consulted,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Assembly and the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty[1] on 2 April 2013 and 24 December 2014, respectively, and noting that the Treaty remains open for accession by any State that has not signed it,

[1] See resolution 67/234 B.

Please recycle

Considering that, as long as not all States that report to the electronic database established by the Office for Disarmament Affairs have become party to the Treaty, the database will retain its added value,

Reaffirming the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Invites* Member States that are in a position to do so, without prejudice to the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004 and subsequent relevant Council resolutions, to enact or improve national legislation, regulations and procedures to exercise effective control over the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, while ensuring that such legislation, regulations and procedures are consistent with the obligations of States parties under international treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty;[1]

2. *Encourages* Member States to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to the Secretary-General on their national legislation, regulations and procedures on the transfer of arms, military equipment and dual-use goods and technology, as well as the changes therein, and requests the Secretary-General to make that information accessible to Member States;

3. *Decides* to remain attentive to the matter.

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*n*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/69. Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical weapons, in particular resolution 70/41 of 7 December 2015,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Re-emphasizing its unequivocal support for the decision of the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to continue the mission to establish the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic, while stressing that the safety and security of mission personnel remains the top priority,

Recalling that, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) of 7 August 2015, the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations was established to identify to the greatest extent feasible individuals, entities, groups or Governments that were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic, where the fact-finding mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons determined that a specific incident in the Syrian Arab Republic involved or likely involved the use of chemicals as weapons,

Reaffirming the importance of the outcome of the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held in The Hague from 8 to 19 April 2013 (the Third Review Conference), including its consensus final report, in which the Conference addressed all aspects of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[1] and made important recommendations on its continued implementation,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1974, No. 33757.

Please recycle

Emphasizing that the Third Review Conference welcomed the fact that the Convention is a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control and noted with satisfaction that the Convention continues to be a remarkable success and an example of effective multilateralism,

Convinced that the Convention, 19 years after its entry into force, has reinforced its role as the international norm against chemical weapons, and that it constitutes a major contribution to:

(*a*) International peace and security,

(*b*) Eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their re-emergence,

(*c*) The ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

(*d*) Excluding completely, for the sake of all mankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons,

(*e*) Promoting international cooperation and exchange in scientific and technical information in the field of chemical activities among States parties for peaceful purposes in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

1. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, emphasizing that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable and is and would be a violation of international law, and expressing its strong conviction that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons must and should be held accountable;

2. *Also condemns in the strongest possible terms* the use of chemical weapons as reported in the reports of the Joint Investigative Mechanism of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations of 24 August 2016[2] and 21 October 2016,[3] which concluded that there was sufficient information to determine that the Syrian Arab Armed Forces were responsible for the attacks which released toxic substances in Talmenes, Syrian Arab Republic, on 21 April 2014, in Sarmin, Syrian Arab Republic, on 16 March 2015, and in Qmenas, Syrian Arab Republic, also on 16 March 2015, and that the so-called "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant" used sulphur mustard in Marea, Syrian Arab Republic, on 21 August 2015, and demands that its perpetrators immediately desist from any further use of chemical weapons;

3. *Emphasizes* that the universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[1] is essential to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States parties, as well as to international peace and security, underlines the fact that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single State not party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons, and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay;

---

[2] See S/2016/738/Rev.1.

[3] See S/2016/888.

4. *Underlines* the fact that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all articles of the Convention makes a major contribution to international peace and security through the elimination of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and the prohibition of their acquisition and use, and provides for assistance and protection in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons and for international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities;

5. *Notes* the impact of scientific and technological progress on the effective implementation of the Convention and the importance for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and its policymaking organs of taking due account of such developments;

6. *Reaffirms* that the obligation of the States parties to complete the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and the destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Annex on Implementation and Verification (Verification Annex) and under the verification of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention;

7. *Stresses* the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end;

8. *Recalls* that the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention expressed concern regarding the statement made by the Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in his report to the Executive Council of the Organization at its sixty-eighth session, provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision C-16/DEC.11 of 1 December 2011 adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its sixteenth session, that three possessor States parties, namely, Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had been unable to fully meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, and also expressed determination that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Verification Annex, and with the full application of the relevant decisions that have been taken;

9. *Welcomes* the ongoing implementation of Executive Council decisions EC-M-50/DEC.1 of 23 November 2015, EC-M-51/DEC.1 of 24 February 2016, EC-M-52/DEC.2 of 27 July 2016 and EC-M-53/DEC.1 and EC-M-53-DEC.2 of 26 August 2016 related to the detailed requirements for the destruction of Libya's remaining category 2 chemical weapons and the destruction of these weapons outside the territory of Libya;

10. *Notes with concern* that, along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, including terrorists, concerns which have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention, as well as the high level of readiness of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including those on national implementation (article VII) and assistance and

protection (article X), constitutes an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

11. *Notes* that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties;

12. *Stresses* the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

13. *Underscores* the concern expressed by the Executive Council in its decision EC-81/DEC.4 of 23 March 2016 regarding the report of the Director General (EC-81/HP/DG.1) indicating the gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies that remain with respect to chemical weapons facilities, activities, munitions and chemical materials and concluding that the Technical Secretariat is unable at present to verify fully that the declaration and related submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic are accurate and complete, as required by the Convention and Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of 27 September 2013, and also underscores the importance of such full verification;

14. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities;

15. *Welcomes* progress made in the national implementation of article VII obligations, commends the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties, on request, with the implementation of the follow-up to the plan of action regarding article VII obligations, and urges States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under article VII to do so without further delay, in accordance with their constitutional processes;

16. *Emphasizes* the continuing relevance and importance of the provisions of article X of the Convention, welcomes the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons, supports further efforts by both States parties and the Technical Secretariat to promote a high level of readiness to respond to chemical weapons threats as articulated in article X, and welcomes the effectiveness and efficiency of the increased focus on making full use of regional and subregional capacities and expertise, including taking advantage of established training centres;

17. *Reaffirms* that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention;

18. *Emphasizes* the importance of the provisions of article XI of the Convention relating to the economic and technological development of States parties, recalls that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of those provisions contributes to universality, and reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States parties;

20. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons within the framework of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the Organization, [4] in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

---

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2160, No. 1240.

United Nations A/RES/71/70

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*gg*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/70. Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international humanitarian law,

Recalling its resolutions 62/30 of 5 December 2007, 63/54 of 2 December 2008, 65/55 of 8 December 2010, 67/36 of 3 December 2012 and 69/57 of 2 December 2014,

Determined to promote multilateralism as an essential means to carry forward negotiations on arms regulation and disarmament,

Taking note of the opinions expressed by Member States and relevant international organizations on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, as reflected in the reports submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions 62/30, 63/54, 65/55, 67/36 and 69/57,[1]

Recognizing the importance of implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization to mitigate potential hazards to human beings and the environment from the contamination of territories with depleted uranium residues,

Considering that studies conducted so far by relevant international organizations have not provided a detailed enough account of the magnitude of the potential long-term effects on human beings and the environment of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium,

Recalling that the United Nations Environment Programme, in its report to the Secretary-General on the subject,[2] affirms that major scientific uncertainties persist regarding the long-term environmental impacts of depleted uranium, particularly with respect to long-term groundwater contamination, and calls for a precautionary approach to the use of depleted uranium,

[1] A/63/170 and Add.1, A/65/129 and Add.1, A/67/177 and Add.1, A/69/151 and A/71/139.

[2] A/65/129/Add.1, sect. III.

Please recycle

Convinced that, as humankind becomes more aware of the need to take immediate measures to protect the environment, any event that could jeopardize such efforts requires urgent attention to implement the required measures,

Noting that further research should be done to assess the health risks and environmental impact of the use of arms and ammunitions containing depleted uranium in conflict situations,

Noting also the technical and financial barriers faced by affected States seeking to implement post-conflict remedial measures that meet international standards for radioactive waste management for locations, infrastructure and materiel contaminated by arms and ammunitions containing depleted uranium,

Taking into consideration the potential harmful effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment, and the ongoing concerns of affected States and communities, health experts and civil society about such effects,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States and international organizations that submitted their views to the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 69/57 and previous resolutions on the subject;

2. *Invites* Member States and relevant international organizations, particularly those that have not yet done so, to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to request relevant international organizations to update and complete, as appropriate, their studies and research on the effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium on human health and the environment;

4. *Encourages* Member States, particularly the affected States, as necessary, to facilitate the studies and research referred to in paragraph 3 above;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to follow closely the development of the studies and research referred to in paragraph 3 above;

6. *Invites* Member States that have used armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium in armed conflicts to provide the relevant authorities of affected States, upon request, with information, as detailed as possible, about the location of the areas of use and the amounts used, with the objective of facilitating the assessment and clearance of such areas;

7. *Encourages* Member States in a position to do so to provide assistance to States affected by the use of arms and ammunitions containing depleted uranium, in particular in identifying and managing contaminated sites and material;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit an updated report on the subject to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, reflecting the information submitted by Member States and relevant international organizations, including the information submitted pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*ll*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/71. Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 67/39 of 3 December 2012, 68/32 of 5 December 2013, 69/58 of 2 December 2014 and 70/34 of 7 December 2015,

Welcoming the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, on 26 September 2013, and recognizing its contribution to furthering the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Emphasizing the importance of seeking a safer world for all and achieving peace and security in a world without nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that effective measures of nuclear disarmament have the highest priority, as affirmed at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons are the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Acknowledging the significant contribution made by a number of countries towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament by the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as by voluntary renunciation of nuclear weapon programmes or withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from their territories, and strongly supporting the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Recalling the resolve of the Heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers,

[1] Resolution 55/2.

Please recycle

Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and also reaffirming the continued importance and relevance of multilateral disarmament machinery as mandated by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament,

Acknowledging the important role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians and the mass media, in advancing the objective of nuclear disarmament,

Sharing the deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 70/34,[2] and welcoming the fact that a large number of Member States contributed their views to this report,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[3] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Expressing its deep concern that the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons have not yet commenced,

Determined to work collectively towards the realization of nuclear disarmament,

1. *Underlines* the strong support, expressed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, held on 26 September 2013, for taking urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons;

2. *Calls for* urgent compliance with the legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament;

3. *Endorses* the wide support expressed at the high-level meeting for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls for* the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction;

5. *Recalls* its decision to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;

6. *Stresses* the need to establish a preparatory committee for the United Nations high-level international conference in New York;

7. *Takes note* of the views provided by Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, as reflected in the report submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 70/34,[2] and

---

[2] A/71/131.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

requests the Secretary-General to forward this report to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission for their early consideration;

8. *Welcomes* the commemoration and promotion of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals that developed activities in promotion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

10. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, on 26 September every year, a one-day high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons;

11. *Decides* that the aforementioned high-level plenary meeting shall be held with the participation of Member and observer States, represented at the highest possible level, as well as with the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake all arrangements necessary to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, including through the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination in order to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, in particular on the elements of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, and also to transmit the report to the Conference on Disarmament;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 98 (*mm*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450)*]

71/72. Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/46 of 7 December 2015,

Expressing grave concern over the devastation caused by the increasing use of improvised explosive devices by illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients,[1] which has affected a large number of countries and has resulted in thousands of casualties, both civilian and military,

Expressing concern at the serious harm that such improvised explosive device attacks have caused to United Nations staff and peacekeepers, and to humanitarian workers, by threatening their lives, increasing the cost of their activities, limiting their freedom of movement and affecting their ability to deliver on their mandates,

Expressing concern also about the negative impact of these attacks on socioeconomic development, infrastructure and freedom of movement, and the security and stability of States, and thus underlining the need to address this issue in order to achieve relevant goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] in particular target 16.1 on significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,

Recognizing that the wide spectrum of materials that can be used for the manufacture of improvised explosive devices, including those sourced from the military and civilian industry, contributes to their diverse nature and their deployment methods, which thus requires an appropriate approach to the formulation of measures to counter them,

Noting that the impact of improvised explosive devices spans a wide array of policy areas and that, owing to the extent of the cross-cutting nature of the issue, a whole-of-government approach focusing on the capacity of Governments to effectively bring together several policy strands for comprehensive action is essential,

[1] See resolution 69/51, A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2 and A/71/187.
[2] Resolution 70/1.

Please recycle

Underlining the important role that States can play in raising awareness among private sector entities about the possible theft, diversion and misuse of their products to make improvised explosive devices, with a view to enabling business entities to develop effective strategies to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices,[3] including to prevent the adverse impact of the diversion of materials and the potential loss of revenue and risk to reputation,

Noting the contribution of good governance, the promotion of human rights, the rule of law and sustained and inclusive socioeconomic growth, including through effective measures and mechanisms for persons belonging to vulnerable groups, as important elements in comprehensively addressing the issue of improvised explosive devices, in particular in post-conflict situations,

Stressing the paramount need to prevent illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients from, and identify the networks that support them in, obtaining, handling, financing, storing, using or seeking access to all types of explosives, whether military or civilian, as well as other military or civilian materials and components that can be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices, including detonators, detonating cords and chemical components, while at the same time avoiding any undue restrictions on the legitimate use of those materials,

Stressing also the importance of securing conventional ammunition stockpiles in order to mitigate the risk of their diversion to illicit use as materials for improvised explosive devices,

Stressing further the importance of engagement by all Member States in a comprehensive and coordinated community of action to counter the global threat posed by improvised explosive devices in the hands of illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, taking into account national capacities,

Noting that, at the global level, organizations across many sectors have expertise that can contribute to a useful set of measures for the mitigation of improvised explosive devices, and noting also the value of considered and coordinated efforts by various stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations, with a view to investing effectively in coordination and information exchange,

Noting also the discussions on the issue of improvised explosive devices by the informal group of experts under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II)[4] and on the technical annex to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V)[5] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[6]

Noting further the multilateral efforts to counter improvised explosive devices of the Programme Global Shield, led by the World Customs Organization and assisted by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to prevent the smuggling and illicit diversion of precursor chemicals that could be used to build improvised explosive

---

[3] See the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (A/HRC/17/31, annex).

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2048, No. 22495.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2399, No. 22495.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1342, No. 22495.

devices, the network of regional and multilateral communities of action established by States to counter improvised explosive devices, the research on those devices undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the work undertaken by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to mitigate the threat posed by those devices to civilians, United Nations staff, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel, in particular in the field,

Taking note of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings[7] and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[8]

Reaffirming the inherent right of Member States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 70/46,[9] and takes note of the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that existing approaches in multilateral arms regulation, while valuable, do not fully address the issue of improvised explosive devices, and therefore strongly urges States to develop and implement, where appropriate, all national measures, including outreach and partnerships with relevant actors, including the private sector, necessary to promote awareness and vigilance among their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction that are involved in the production, sale, supply, purchase, transfer and/or storage of precursor components and materials that could be used to make improvised explosive devices;

3. *Strongly encourages* States, where appropriate, to develop and adopt their own national policy to counter improvised explosive devices that includes civilian-military cooperation, to strengthen their countermeasure capability, to prevent their territory from being used for terrorist purposes and to combat illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients in their use of improvised explosive devices, while bearing in mind their obligations under applicable international law, and notes that the policy could include measures to support international and regional efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate attacks using improvised explosive devices and their widespread consequences;

4. *Stresses* the need for States to take appropriate measures to strengthen the management of their national ammunition stockpiles to prevent the diversion of materials for making improvised explosive devices to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, and encourages the application of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines for the safer and more secure management of ammunition stockpiles, while also recognizing the importance of capacity-building in this regard;[10]

5. *Underlines* that, for the issue of improvised explosive devices to be effectively addressed, it is essential to comprehend the importance of action needed at the local and community levels; through activities ranging from awareness-raising

---

[7] Ibid., vol. 2149, No. 37517.

[8] Resolution 60/288.

[9] A/71/187.

[10] The General Assembly, in its resolution 66/42, welcomed the completion of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the establishment of the "SaferGuard" knowledge resource management programme for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition.

with local retailers and intelligence-gathering to establishing deradicalization programmes, Governments will need to engage continuously with local authorities and groups;

6. *Encourages* States to enhance, as appropriate, international and regional cooperation, including the sharing of information on good practices as appropriate and where relevant, in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization, in order to address the theft, diversion, loss and illicit use of materials for making improvised explosive devices, while ensuring the security of sensitive information that is shared;

7. *Also encourages* States to take measures to stem the transfer of knowledge of improvised explosive devices and their construction and use by illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, as well as the illicit acquisition of components over the Internet;

8. *Further encourages* States to participate, in accordance with their obligations and commitments, in the ongoing work on improvised explosive devices by the informal group of experts under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Amended Protocol II)[4] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;[6]

9. *Encourages* States to participate, as appropriate, in a comprehensive and coordinated community of action to counter improvised explosive devices in accordance with their respective international obligations and commitments, and to consider supporting the Programme Global Shield of the World Customs Organization, the proposal for a counter-improvised explosive device global alliance emanating from the inaugural International Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Leaders' Forum, held in Canberra from 2 to 4 September 2015, and other multilateral and regional efforts;

10. *Encourages* States and international, regional and other organizations with relevant expertise and that are in a position to do so to render to interested States, upon their request, technical, financial and material assistance aimed at strengthening the capacity of such States to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices, including through assistance for developing good practices for the protection of civilians from attacks using improvised explosive devices, and to provide appropriate assistance to the victims of such attacks;

11. *Encourages* States to respond to the needs of today's peacekeepers to operate in new threat environments involving improvised explosive devices, including by providing, in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the appropriate training, capabilities, information and knowledge management and technology that is required to counter improvised explosive devices, and to ensure that adequate financial resources are allocated to meet such needs;

12. *Recognizes* that improvised explosive devices are used in terrorist activities, takes note of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and urges its further attention to the issue of improvised explosive devices in line with the mandates of its associated entities;

13. *Urges* Member States to comply fully with all relevant United Nations resolutions, including those related to preventing terrorist groups from using and

accessing materials that can be used in the making of improvised explosive devices;[11]

14. *Encourages* States and relevant international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to build upon existing awareness and risk education campaigns regarding the urgent threat of improvised explosive devices;

15. *Encourages* States and relevant international and regional organizations to engage, as appropriate, business entities in discussions and initiatives on countering improvised explosive devices, including on issues such as accountability for dual-use components, improving the regulation of explosive precursors, where possible and as appropriate, strengthening security for the transport of explosives and at explosive facilities, as well as enhancing the vetting procedures for personnel with access to explosives, while avoiding undue restrictions on the legitimate use of and access to such materials;

16. *Strongly encourages* States to share information on a voluntary basis on the diversion of commercial-grade explosives and commercially available detonators to the illicit trade, and transfers to illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, through relevant channels including, but not limited to, the INTERPOL Chemical Anti-Smuggling Enforcement and Chemical Risk Identification and Mitigation programmes and the Programme Global Shield of the World Customs Organization;

17. *Takes into account* the existing initiatives at the international, regional and national levels to counter improvised explosive devices, and encourages the engagement by States in an open and inclusive dialogue on steps forward to harmonize diverse ongoing efforts;

18. *Urges* States in a position to do so to contribute funding to the diverse areas of work needed to effectively address the issue of improvised explosive devices, including research, clearance, ammunition stockpile management, preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, awareness-raising, capacity-building, information management and victim assistance, through existing trust funds and arrangements, including those of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, or through regional or national programmes;

19. *Requests* the Office for Disarmament Affairs to establish, where feasible and in coordination with other relevant entities, an online hub providing impartial, authoritative information relevant to addressing the issue of improvised explosive devices in a comprehensive manner, thus facilitating access to existing initiatives, policies and tools presenting good practices, inside and outside the United Nations system, filling gaps where needed but avoiding duplication;

20. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to support the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, in consultation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in developing a voluntary self-assessment tool to assist States in identifying gaps and challenges in their national regulation and preparedness regarding improvised explosive devices;

---

[11] Including Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2160 (2014), 2161 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2255 (2015).

21. *Recognizes* the important contribution of civil society to addressing the issue of improvised explosive devices, including in clearance, awareness-raising, risk education, victim assistance and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in particular at the local and community levels;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, acknowledging and taking into account existing efforts and seeking the views of Member States;

23. *Encourages* States to hold open, informal consultations, where appropriate, in preparation for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, focusing on matters of coordination between the various existing initiatives and approaches relating to improvised explosive devices within the United Nations system and beyond, with information provided by States, international and regional organizations, as well as experts from non-governmental organizations, on efforts to prevent, counter and mitigate the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, which could thus assist the Assembly in maintaining a comprehensive overview of relevant global activities;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 99 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/451)*]

71/73. United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament,[2] to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly, the second special session devoted to disarmament,[3] including its decision to continue the programme,

Noting that the programme continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has trained a large number of officials from Member States throughout its 38 years of existence, many of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments,

Recognizing the need for Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme,

Recalling all the resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Believing that the forms of assistance available under the programme to Member States, in particular to developing countries, will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

---

[1] A/71/95 and Corr.1.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes*, agenda items 9–13, document A/S-12/32.

Please recycle

1. *Reaffirms* its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[3] and the guidelines approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;[4]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success, in particular to the Governments of China, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America for continuing extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme during 2015 and 2016;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Court of Justice, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation for organizing specific study programmes in the field of disarmament in their respective areas of competence, thereby contributing to the objectives of the programme;

4. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

---

[4] A/33/305.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2016

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 99 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2016

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/71/451)*]

71/74. United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,[1]

Bearing in mind its resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolutions 51/46 A of 10 December 1996, 53/78 E of 4 December 1998, 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, 57/90 of 22 November 2002, 59/103 of 3 December 2004, 61/95 of 6 December 2006, 63/81 of 2 December 2008, 65/81 of 8 December 2010, 67/67 of 3 December 2012, and 69/71 of 2 December 2014,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating, as widely as possible, information on arms control and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

2. *Stresses* the importance of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

3. *Commends with satisfaction* the launch of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2014 and 2015, as well as its online editions, by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[2] A/71/153.

Please recycle

4. *Notes with appreciation* the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and its information centres in pursuit of the objectives of the Programme;

5. *Recommends* that the Programme continue to inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms control and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, and that it focus its efforts:

(*a*) To continue to publish *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in all official languages, as well as its *Occasional Papers*, *Study Series* and other ad hoc information materials in accordance with the current practice;

(*b*) To continue to update the disarmament website as a part of the United Nations website in as many official languages as feasible;

(*c*) To promote the use of the Programme as a means to provide information related to progress in the implementation of nuclear disarmament measures;

(*d*) To continue to intensify United Nations interaction with the public, principally non-governmental organizations and research institutes, to help further an informed debate on topical issues of arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(*e*) To continue to organize discussions on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating an exchange of views and information among Member States and civil society;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of all support extended to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, and once again invites all Member States to make further contributions to the Fund with a view to sustaining a strong outreach programme;

7. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on disarmament and non-proliferation education,[3] which reviews the implementation of the recommendations made in the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;[4]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

51st plenary meeting
5 December 2016

---

[3] A/71/124 and Add.1.

[4] A/57/124.